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as well as their form . . . . By vegetation I mean not the flora, the historically related elements, but the vegetable coating, the space related elements. Vegetation in this sense is a geographical phenomenon of fundamental importance. It indicates quality—quality of atmosphere and quality of soil. It is a visible synthesis of the climatic and edaphic elements. Hence the vast lowlands of relatively uniform land features are properly divided into regions according to vegetation—tundra, pine forest, deciduous forest, warm evergreen forest, steppe, and scrub. Such differences of vegetation are full of [geographical] significance."

Similarly, a map showing the distribution of limestone soils is a geological map, but a map which shows how in the limestone country human habitations are gathered into compact villages around one or more deep wells, while in the bottom lands they spread comfortably along the river, is a geographical map, and what is true of the map is true also of the written word. The ripest product of truly geographic scholarship is therefore the geographical monograph devoted to the study of an individual geographical region, the type of work so well represented in modern French and German geographical literature, and of which England possesses the classical example in Huxley's *Thames*. If he has not yet found more disciples in this field in England the cause probably is that the Empire has been too busy exploring, surveying and mapping its large territories. But in proportion as the English universities pay more attention to the long-neglected subject of geography, it is to be hoped that this phase of geographical research will be better appreciated by all who are called upon to utter an opinion on this subject.

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#### FURTHER COMMENT

(Extract from "Prof. Hellmann on the Floods of the Oder" [a review] by Hugh Robert Mill, D. Sc., *Geographical Journal*, Vol. 38, No. 6, 1911, pp. 601-602.)

Colonel Close, in his recent address as president of Section E of the British Association, called attention to "the extremely frank way in which vulcanology, seismology, meteorology, climatology, terrestrial magnetism, anthropology, and ethnography are included in geography." He went on to say that the papers "on meteorology and climatology" which had been read before the Royal Geographical Society during the last five years might have been read with perfect appropriateness before the Meteorological Society and made the suggestion that the authors who send such papers to the *Geographical Journal*, instead of sending them to the *Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society*, "in so doing appeal rather to the public at large than to men of their own special sciences." If this

opinion be accepted, it places a geographer who is asked to review a meteorological work for a geographical society in a somewhat awkward position; for it would follow that such a work must be presented to the readers of their journals not as geographers, but as members of the public at large. I, on the other hand, hold so different a view of the relation to geography of the sciences referred to, and of geography itself, that in writing as a geographer for geographers, I feel that I must vindicate my position before taking up the subject of this review.

In the article "Geography" in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 11th edition, I said: "Geography is a synthetic science dependent for the data with which it deals on the results of specialized sciences, such as astronomy, geology, oceanography, meteorology, biology, and anthropology, as well as on topographical description. The physical and natural sciences are concerned in geography only as far as they deal with the forms of the earth's surface, or as regards the distribution of phenomena. The distinctive task of geography as a science is to investigate the control exercised by the crust-forms directly or indirectly upon the various mobile distributions. This gives to it unity and definiteness, and renders superfluous the attempts that have been made from time to time to define the limits which divide geography from geology on the one hand and from history on the other."

If this view of geography is kept in mind a paper on the distribution of rainfall would be seen to be more appropriate to a geographical than to a meteorological journal, because the distribution is conditioned by the relation of land and sea, the tracks pursued by atmospheric depressions, and the configuration of the land. A paper on the formation of rain would, of course, be more appropriate to a meteorological than a geographical publication, because it deals with the non-geographical part of the subject. In general, I consider that no discussion of the distribution of anything is foreign to geography, although the thing in other than its distributional aspect may be the subject-matter of another science. If Colonel Close is right I am wrong in my point of view, and the Editor of the *Geographical Journal* is wrong in inserting this notice, for it is not directed to the public at large, but to those trained in geography, or at least so far interested in geography as to have an interest in it greater than that of the casual reader.